

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12816

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FRANCOIS MITTERRAND

SUMMARY. MITTERRAND CAN BE EXPECTED TO TELL THE SECRETARY THAT HE FAVORS SOME KIND OF FLEXIBLE FOLLOW-ON ORGANIZATION TO THE CSCE, ASK ABOUT PROGRESS ON MBFR AND SALT AND SEEK REASSURANCE ON THE US COMMITMENT TO EUROPE. THEY WILL MEET AT A TIME WHEN MITTERRAND IS UNDERTAKING A MAJOR REDEFINITION OF SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ISSUES: MITTERRAND WILL PROBABLY WISH TO DISCUSS:

- CSCE. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE SOVIET POSITION THAT SOME SORT OF FLEXIBLE FOLLOW-ON ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE PUT INTO PLACE;
- MBFR AND SALT. WE EXPECT HIM TO ASK FOR THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS;
- PORTUGAL. MITTERRAND CAN BE EXPECTED TO DOWNPLAY THE EXTENT OF SOVIET CONFIDENCE IN CUNHAL, CALL ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED US PATIENCE AND CONCLUDE THAT THE ALLIANCE MUST BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL TO TAKE NO STEP WHICH MIGHT PUSH THE PORTUGUESE

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LEADERSHIP TOWARDS "IRRESPONSIBLE LEFT-WING

SOLUTIONS." WE SUGGEST THAT THE SECRETARY MAKE THE POINT THAT MITTERRAND AND THE FRENCH PS ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO HELP THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS; THAT PORTUGAL IS A EUROPEAN PROBLEM AS MUCH IF NOT MORE THAN A US PROBLEM.

- THE US COMMITMENT TO EUROPE. MITTERRAND IS SAID TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF US DEFEATS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO REASSURE HIM OF OUR CONTINUING WILL TO EXERCISE OUR GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. MITTERRAND'S PRESENT MOOD: THE FIRST SECRETARY HAS, SINCE HIS NARROW ELECTION DEFEAT, BEEN GOING THROUGH A PHILOSOPHIC PERIOD. HE HAS BEEN PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FATE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEFT IN EUROPE AND HAS BEEN TELLING HIS ADVISORS THAT THE NON-COMMUNIST LEFT IS BEING NIBBLED TO DEATH BY A LIBERAL RIGHT, WHICH TAKES OVER THE LEFT'S PROGRAMS, AND BY EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS WHO NO LONGER SEEM TO BELIEVE IN THE REALITY OF CO-GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, MITTERRAND IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN RE-LAUNCHING HIS PARTY, HAS LAID PLANS FOR A MAJOR REDEFINITION OF PS FOREIGN POLICY AND IS SOLICITING IDEAS FROM ALL SIDES. HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY COMES JUST AFTER HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW; ONE OF OUR AIMS SHOULD BE TO ASSURE THAT MITTERRAND FACES HIS OWN PARTY'S LEFT WITH A STRENGTHENED SENSE OF THE POSSIBILITIES INHERENT IN THE ALLIANCE.

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